

**Twyford Waterworks Trust**  
**Company limited by guarantee 1904919. Registered Charity No.**  
**291720**

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HLF Return to Steam Team

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Twyford Waterworks Railway

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## From the Chairman

Firstly, many thanks to all of you for renewing your membership, and continuing with your support.

Our season has got off to a cracking start with 128 visitors for a tours only day on the 1st May organised in conjunction with the Friends of King Alfred Buses running day. This was followed by a full open day on the 7th May with 676 visitors, a slight increase on last year. The tea room and ticket sales made an outstanding contribution to our revenue for these days. Hopefully, this sets the scene for the rest of the season and our return to steam, but more of this later in the magazine.

A massive thank you to all our friends and volunteers who helped on both days. Having lost part of the car park to Southern

Water essential works, parking on the 7th proved to be a challenge but with patience from our visitors, and use of the public highway we sorted the problem. The feedback from our visitors and exhibitors about the day has been excellent.

Colin Billingham is chairing a monthly management meeting to review and report routine operational matters to the Board. Richard Broadway, our treasurer, is also working closely with Colin and with Graham's return to steam group to ensure we celebrate this event in an appropriate manner later in the year, and HLF funds are fully utilised before the end of the project.

AGM – a further reminder that this will be held on Sunday 23rd July at 14.30 at the Phoenix Pub in Twyford, papers to be sent out closer to the time! Hopefully, fuller detail of the RTS will be confirmed at the meeting.

With very best wishes and don't forget if you can spare a few hours on or before each open day the team need you!

**Mike Southgate**



## Wildlife Report

**W**e have recently been working on the wildlife paths, cutting back and getting the realigned path down to 'the Steps' into a more even state by dressing it with top soil kindly provided by the local mole population.

Our bird nesting boxes continue to be monitored by our two new volunteers, Liz and Andy, who are licensed to ring the young birds, record nesting sites and send results to the British Trust for Ornithology. The pair of Stock Doves that were nesting near the Kilns had two eggs which hatched but unfortunately didn't survive. We are confident that they will have quickly nested again, but hopefully in a different location.

Last week a volunteer was working near the Quarry and noticed a dead rabbit laying in the middle of that area which had not been there a few minutes before. As he watched, a stoat ran to the rabbit and dragged it across and under some railway trucks. No doubt he had plenty of food for his family. This is the first sighting of

a stoat on the site that I can recall.

After many years of trying, jackdaws have again managed to secure a nest in one of the kiln chimneys and they now have a family of young. Usually the twigs they push under the protective caps just fall down the chimney: often the clearing up process results in several wheelbarrow loads each year!

Blackcaps have once again been singing at various parts of the site and were a feature of bird song at the Spring Rally.

May and June are often slightly disappointing months for seeing butterflies on the wing because





one generation of Brimstones gives way to the next annual brood and the Orange Tips that gladden our hearts early in the year are reaching the end of their flying season. There is another reason too because, as we prepare for the June Open Day, there is little in the way of nectar and pollen on offer from wild flowers - but now rockrose, blackberries, knapweed, campion and elderflower are all about to make up a more attractive scene for flying insects.

There has been one encouraging exception to the general absence

of butterflies: on the Upper Meadow, the Lower Meadow and on Buckthorn Hill we have seen several Common Blues. This species has been in very short supply in recent years and we must hope that conditions continue to suit the later broods.

Other equally exciting insects are on display already on the pond where dragon flies such as hawkers, chasers, and damsel flies are patrolling. In the pond it appears we have had fewer tadpoles and newts than last year whilst the mallards seem to have produced only one little troop of



ducklings. On the other hand the kingcups and other plants on the verge and in the water are becoming well-established thus beginning to make a fine show.

Finally, we should like to speak out in defence of one of our residents. It is the misfortune of the Green-veined White butterfly to suffer from being mistaken as an enemy of mankind generally - and of gardeners in particular. It is a cousin, so to speak, of the Small White that loves to find a cabbage patch and raise an enormous family of fat green caterpillars on the finest

growths. The two species are similar in appearance and both fly in the summer months so the GV White is frequently identified wrongly as one of its troublesome cousins. The key difference is that whereas the Small White has a half-hearted yellowish tone to the underside of its under-wing, the GV White has grey-green lines on its under-wing that pick out the ribs that form the wing. In fact, the Green-veined White is innocent of wrong-doing, having no taste at all for brassicas; the food plant of its caterpillar is Garlic Parsley (Jack by the Hedge) which grows in abundance in hedgerows and around shady woodlands. In most years this biennial plant, that looks not unlike a stinging nettle but produces small white flowers and does not sting, is plentiful at the waterworks so we might expect a good population of GV Whites, but this only occurs in rather wet summers. So if you see a white butterfly in your garden that you suspect of mischief, please take a second look before doing it harm.

**Terry, Richard and Janet**

## Spring Rally 2017



## Return to Steam – our Heritage Lottery Project

Interest in our return to steam is naturally very high at present, as we now rapidly head towards that great day when the boiler and engine will be brought back to life, and the sound of steam will once again be heard at the Waterworks. Exciting times and we are almost there, at last!

As has been said many times, a project of this magnitude is always going to take a while to complete so following on from the last edition of 'The Works' here's another summary of what we've achieved in the last three months, together with some details of what's left to do:

**The Steam Part** – Alasdair McEwen and his team were back on site for a fortnight at the end of March to install all the new steam pipework in the Boiler House and Engine House. This was completed as planned, and after this the Steam Team worked with McEwens to consider all the remaining work required. This resulted in a list, and it was agreed that McEwens would return to site again for two further sessions – one was at the end of May, and as I write this we are expecting the final works to be completed w/c 12<sup>th</sup> June. At the end of this session we will all review the work before moving to

the final phase – trial steaming.

During this period our Steam Team has worked on several other tasks related to RTS, from reassembling the front walkway across the boiler, overhauling the steam pumps and painting the boiler brickwork white, as it always was during commercial operation. Much consideration has also been given to pumping condensate from the lower hotwell under the Hathorn Davey, and McEwens have now installed new equipment for this.



**The Building Work** – all three remaining snagging items have

been attended to. The tarmac area outside the Tea Room has been stripped and relaid, this time to a very high standard and we were most impressed with the contractors that were recommended to us. We've had the damp patch in the wall of the Gents toilet looked at professionally, and we will continue to monitor this during 2017, but are not expecting any further major issues. The Boiler House door lighting was sorted by our own volunteer electrician, Morley Slade, and now works perfectly.

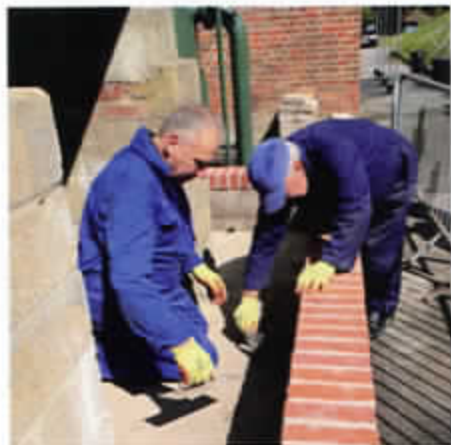
Building work is therefore completed.

**The Interpretation** – this too is completed. Our volunteer webmaster, Alan Tearle, is ensuring that the website is kept fresh and up to date, and we've had some great comments about it. The Friends Page is superb and has all the week by week news on it, so do please have a look if you haven't yet!

**Southern Water** – I had a meeting with our contacts at Southern Water at the end of March, during which we reviewed all the perceived risks that had previously been identified, and we agreed that all were mitigated by the controls that our Trust now have in place. I was expecting for this to be formally agreed, but as

ever we've heard nothing more despite regular prompting. Whilst we'll continue to seek Southern Water's acceptance, this cannot delay our project further. A condition of McEwens completion is to steam the boiler and engine, and a condition of our HLF funding is to steam regularly to the public – to emphasise this HLF has recently indicated that this must be in 2017. Our Board of Trustees is also in total agreement that we should press on with steaming, so that's what we'll do.

**Going back to steam** – slowly all the other parts of the project are coming together now. The brickwork for the bund wall under the external boiler water tank has been completed and looks very smart and matches the adjacent brickwork. We've also got training sorted for those who will be operating the boiler and engine – there'll be several training sessions at Twyford once the trial





steaming has been completed and we have our insurance ticket, plus the opportunity to have two sessions on board the SS Shieldhall, to provide an appreciation of the methods required to operate steam machinery in a safe manner. These should be both informative and fun! If you're still considering offering to volunteer to help with the steam side then there are still places available on this – just let me know.

So, we're getting down to the fine details – what we need in terms of things like coal, oil and overalls, other items that we listed on our HLF application but haven't yet

purchased, how many celebration steamings we need, who we should invite, and finally when we'll steam for the public to come and enjoy it all. Our Trustees and volunteers are working through all this at present, and we would like to ask all Friends to think of anything that is needed or will make a difference, and let us know if there is anything. Give me a call or drop me an email if you want to have a chat.

**Graham**

HLF Project Director & Southern  
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*A busy scene from the popular Spring Rally where we welcomed a diverse selection of exhibits and almost record-breaking number of visitors.*



## Railway Update

The most significant activity over the past three months has been the returning to working order of WR M7550/1972. This white painted battery locomotive, easily distinguishable by its coupling rods, has probably not been operational for the past couple of decades. Built for tunnelling contract work it was bought from J Murphy and arrived at the Waterworks in March 2015.

Once basic cleaning of the electric circuitry had been completed the loco was jacked up and power applied through the controller. At that point it was discovered that the wheels would only turn in one direction necessitating additional investigation and cleaning of components. Further testing proved successful and it was decided to move the locomotive up to the Lime Kilns in time for



the June Open Day: a herculean task in itself. This then allowed us to have six of the ten complete locomotives running, at one time or another, during the event. Trials have shown the locomotive to be a sturdy performer, running and hauling wagons well, although a full restoration is required in due course with extra attention required to the controller and brake.

Elsewhere (when we have not been occupied with the above) work has also taken place on wagon restoration, along with the continual round of track maintenance.

**Matthew**

## Internal Combustion Report

The Internal Combustion team have had a fairly quiet time of it this winter, no major rebuilds or serious maintenance in hand. We have, however, been busy in other ways, helping out with getting the Ampert Pump up and running on its electric motor, which now adds another interesting exhibit for visitors.

Also undertaken during the "closed season" has been the ongoing work on the Transfer House which includes not only the exterior woodwork and window frames but also the tidying up of the cooling-water pipework on the 3VCR.

Having previously thought that we were the custodians of the only two VER type Rustons still extant, we have made contact with a group in Australia who have preserved another 4 cylinder engine, not yet running but it is turnable on compressed air. We shall remain in touch in case anything we learned from the rebuild of ours is of use to them.

Due to the fact that we remain seriously depleted in volunteer



numbers to run / exhibit the engines on Open Days we are only able to run the Transfer Engine, the Crossley and the Lister in the Filter House, with other volunteers in the Diesel House answering questions generally on the pumping sets, we are usually unable to field any of the smaller engine exhibits.

We did, however, decide to display the 1910 Swift Radford at the Spring Rally thinking that it would just be a matter of de-winterising on the Sunday morning and running it. WRONG!

It coughed and spluttered a few times but obstinately refused to start so was consigned to be a static exhibit for the day.

Having investigated the cause the following Tuesday evening it all came down to the magneto timing

having slipped. Having reset the position and re-secured the grubscrew it ran faultlessly on test, during the June Open Day, and hopefully will continue to do so. For those of you who haven't seen this engine yet, it was originally an Edwardian car engine but has been mounted on a frame driving a Stuart pump and really does make an interesting exhibit.

**Geoff, IC team**

### **Volunteer Vacancies**

**W**e are currently seeking for an Open Day Assistant, Company Secretary, Engineers & Archivist.

Volunteers If you find that any of these Volunteer vacancies are of interest to you, please contact me for more information and to arrange an informal chat.

Terry Forder-Stent,  
[forderstent@talktalk.net](mailto:forderstent@talktalk.net)

We are always looking for extra

### **Group Tours of Twyford**

**W**e have run some successful Group Tours of Twyford in recent years. For a charge of £5 per head we provide tea/coffee and biscuits followed by a guided tour tailored to the interests of the group. These tours can be arranged for any reasonable time in our season of May to October. We cater for group sizes from 10 (minimum) to a coach load of 40+ using sufficient guides to provide about 1 guide per 10 visitors.

Organisations who have used this service include U3A groups, the Open University, church groups, historical societies, photographic societies.

If you belong to a society whose members would be interested in a visit to learn about where their water comes from, please suggest a visit and put them in touch with us. This can be done via email (preferred) or telephone; details on our website.



**Martin**

## Friends of Twyford Waterworks

**T**he 2017 Open Day season has been very popular so far, and if you have been able to come along to The Works I hope you enjoyed your visit.

Our AGM is on 23 July, and I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to make it this year. You need to be a current Friend to attend and vote, so if you've not yet renewed for this year, please do get in touch. Time is also running out to renew, to make sure you keep in touch by receiving our Newsletters.

A number of Friends' emails are out of date and bounce back now. If you've not heard from us for a while, one of these could be yours! Please drop me an email to update



*Volunteers busy putting together the new picnic benches.*

our records. Also if you are changing your email address or moving house, please do remember to let me know.

Have you visited the Friends News Blog yet? It's continuously updated with news and information from around The Works with all the things going on everywhere. You don't need an email address for this, just access to the internet, either at home or at your local library etc. Search for the TWT website ([www.twyfordwaterworks.co.uk](http://www.twyfordwaterworks.co.uk)) or type Twyford Waterworks into Google. Click on the Friends 'tab' near the top of the page, and look for the 'Already a Friend?' button. You'll need to type the password which will change from Babcock06 to Waterworks17 on 7th July (that's a capital W, and 17 are numbers). The whole website has been updated too, and is well worth exploring.

We were saddened to hear recently that two Friends of Twyford Waterworks, Charles Norris and Duncan Hartley have passed away.

Charles has been a Friend and staunch supporter of the Trust for very many years and we will miss his visits.

Duncan joined the Friends in 2012 and had a keen interest in our activities. Our condolences

have been passed to their loved ones.

Finally a very warm welcome to Helen Broadbent, Sue Cook, Anthony & Patricia Dowland, Bridgette Johnson, Janet Matthews, Paul & Gail Ollis, Andrew & Liz Scott, Clive Worledge and Trevor Wyatt, who have all joined The Friends since the last Newsletter.

This is a very exciting time to join, and if you know of anyone who would like to be part of The Friends, please do get in touch, or pass our details on to them.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about anything to do with The Friends, or to renew your membership.

Lesley

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# TWYFORD WATERWORKS



[www.twyfordwaterworks.co.uk](http://www.twyfordwaterworks.co.uk) 07516 458900

Hazeley Road, Twyford, Hampshire, SO21 1QA

## 1st May Guided Tours

Where does your water come from and how has it been supplied to the local area? Find out with a guided tour of the Waterworks!

## 7th May Spring Rally

Engines, steam, vehicles, displays and demonstrations. Something for everyone at our popular start of season event.

## 4th June Waterworks Open Day & Railway Gala

Toy & model trains and our narrow gauge industrial system in operation. Plus other vintage machinery

## 2nd July Waterworks Open Day & Miniature Steam

Model and miniature steam engines, perfect to get all steamed up about!

## 6th Aug The Edwardian Waterworks

Be transported back to the Waterworks' golden age. Come dressed in period costume for free entry

## 3rd Sept Waterworks Open Day & Vintage Vehicles

The Waterworks welcomes classic cars and other vintage vehicles to enjoy a run out to the pumping station.

## 1st October Autumn Rally

Our ever popular end of season rally. Cars, engines, steam, demonstrations and displays.

Admission (non-steaming days): Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, under 16s free

All events run from 11am to 4pm.

## 2017 events



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*Discover the story of your drinking water*